



Main Entrance: 11000 Euclid Avenue

Allen Memorial Library

home of

Cleveland Medical Library

Howard Dittrick Museum of Medical History

Cleveland Branch *of the* Army Medical Library

Cleveland Academy of Medicine



This brochure was published by the Picker X-Ray Corporation on the occasion of the Thirty-fifth Annual Meeting of the Radiological Society of North America in Cleveland, Ohio, December 1949.



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he Cleveland Medical Library is a free and independent association of physicians founded in 1894 for the advancement of medical learning in the Cleveland area. The founding committee, composed of members of three competing medical societies, felt that the success of the project could best be assured by providing that the Association remain free and independent from corporate entanglements with any other medical association, a policy which has been maintained to this day. At the present time, the Association owns about 75,000 volumes, subscribes to over 500 medical journals, is supported by 2,000 members and is open and available for free use to the general public. A free and unrestricted delivery service has been maintained for the past fifteen years for the convenience of the members. During the past year, the library was used by 19,917 registrants. 9,644 volumes were circulated and 1,072 items were sent out by the delivery service.

Financial support of the Library is obtained through membership dues, income from a substantial endowment, and the Association has received generous individual gifts at various times.



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The Association owns the Allen Memorial Library Building, a three-story Indiana limestone structure of classic design situated at the corner of Euclid Avenue and Adelbert Road. On entering the building through the main entrance on Euclid Avenue, one sees a two-story foyer finished in marble. There is a handsome and decorative stairway leading around three sides of the foyer to the second story balcony and the entrance to the reading room. The balcony is decorated with four heroic murals by Cora Millet Holden representing important events in the history of medicine. The main reading room is a two-story room 75 x 150 feet, containing book shelves lining the walls, magazine stands for current periodicals, adequate reading tables, and a display case for museum exhibits. The room is decorated with oil paintings of four members of the Cushing family. To the west of the reading room are the so-called members' rooms, the Powell Room, the Lowman Room, and the Millikin Room which were generously provided by the families in honor of deceased members of the Association. These rooms contain special collections and are reserved for members' use where they may smoke and lounge. The entire east end is occupied by the book stacks in an especially constructed fireproof portion of the building. The third floor contains a large exhibit hall in the center, surrounded by a series of special committee rooms, study rooms which may be assigned for members' use, and a beautiful room especially designed and furnished to house the Howard Dittrick Museum of Historical Medicine. For the past eight years most of the third floor has been occupied by the Cleveland Branch of the Army Medical Library.

The building was so constructed as to accommodate the offices of the Cleveland Academy of Medicine on the first floor with unlimited use of a beautiful auditorium accommodating about 550 people. There is also the Herrick Room, a smaller auditorium accommodating about 100 people.

The judgment and vision of the Building Committee provided a building which has proven adequate for the needs of the Library for a quarter of a century and promises to continue to do so for at least a like period of time. The trustees have tried to maintain a library to provide a maximum of service with a minimum of cost to the members of the medical profession in general, with due attention to the needs of the specialists and research workers. The trustees feel that it is their first obligation to provide a sound and practical working library, but they have been able to acquire several notable collections of great cultural and historical value. These include the Nicolaus Pol Collection of Incunabula acquired as an anonymous gift in 1929, the George G. Marshall Collection of Herbals acquired by gift and purchase in 1946, and the E. H. Cushing Collection acquired in 1946 on indefinite loan.

the Pol Collection

The Pol Collection comprises about forty volumes of late fifteenth and early sixteenth century medical classics bearing the inscription *Nicolaus Pol, Doctor 1494*. Twenty-nine of these are incunabula (printed before 1500 A.D.). Dr. Pol is known to have been Court Physician to Emperor Maximillian I and is the author of a text on the treatment of syphilis by the use of Guaiacum.

These books together with hundreds of others bearing the Nicolaus Pol inscription were at one time in the Library of the Collegiate Church at Innichen, Tyrol. When the Collegiata were suppressed in 1798 it is presumed that the library was sold and the books scattered and since that time have been in the hands of various collectors.

The collection includes some of the most remarkable achievements of the fifteenth century printers. Only two volumes were printed outside Italy and about two-thirds bear Venetian imprints; there are copies from such famous early printers as Octavianus Scotus and DeGregorian Brothers.

The Cleveland Medical Library published a text by Dr. Max Fisch describing the collection and giving a translation of Dr. Pol's monograph on the treatment of syphilis.



the Marshall Collection of *H*erbals

Herbals are of particular interest to physicians and biologists because they are among the earliest scientific books ever published. Because of their beauty of style and illustrations, they are prized by collectors of early printing.

The George Ghering Marshall Collection of Herbals was acquired by the Cleveland Medical Library Association in the spring of 1946. The most valuable part of the collection, and the part which makes the most notable addition to the Cleveland Medical Library, is the group of about eighty herbals from the beginning of printing to about 1670. Among the incunabula are the rare *Herbarius* published by Peter Schoeffer at Mainz in 1484, and a complete copy of the *Grant Herbiere en Francois* published by Pierre le Caron at Paris before 1500. Outstanding items from the first half of the sixteenth century are the following: the 1526 edition of the *Grete Herball*; the Latin and German editions of Brunfels with the woodcuts of Hans Weiditz; the Latin and German folio editions of Fuchs; and the rare *Kreuter Buch* of Jerome Bock with David Kandel's lively cuts.

Belonging to the early seventeenth century, but with their interest centered in the amazing development of the engraver's art, are a group of flower-books including the works of Pierre Vallet, Daniel Rabel and Nicolas Robert.



the Howard Dittrick

Museum of Historical Medicine

The Museum of Historical Medicine, an activity of the Cleveland Medical Library, dates from 1926. Its pattern was suggested by Dr. Dudley P. Allen's gift of equipment of his pioneer ancestors. Through the co-operation of Cleveland physicians and other museums, 7,000 objects have been acquired.

Items of local interest may be compared with those from foreign countries; for example, saddle bags of Dr. Peter Allen, and a Korean physician's bag. Sculpture in various media portrays votive offerings and healing saints. Shelfware and shelving have come from early Cleveland pharmacies, while mortars and apothecary jars have been obtained from Austria, Italy, France, Holland, Yugoslavia, and Spain. An extensive collection of Aztec pottery, assembled in 1840, represents amulets, medical deities, and numerous diseases and deformities.

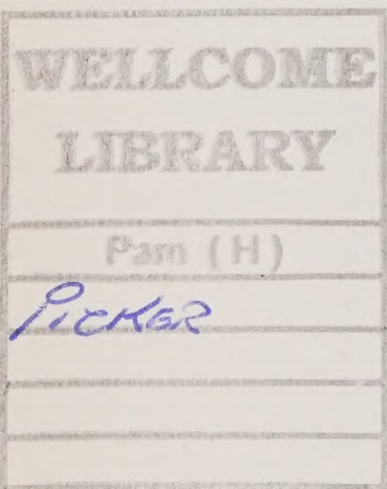
Other exhibits include Pompeian surgical instruments, spectacles, microscopes, devices for blood examinations, sphygmomanometers, pewter objects, military medicine, infant-feeding utensils, and surgical appliances made by medieval armorers.

Radiologic material includes tubes and other equipment used by former Clevelanders. Roentgenograms of Lou Criger (Cy Young's catcher) and other baseball "greats" are exhibited. An early Edison focus tube (1897), the original Glasser dosimeter, and other fascinating mementos of x-ray's infant days are on view.

the History of Medicine Division

of the *Army Medical Library*

In 1942, when many of the libraries and museums in Washington were moving their special treasures out of the city, the Army Medical Library shipped its oldest books to Cleveland for safety. The fifteenth century books, some 500 in number, had been collected in a group about four years earlier, and some 3,000 books of the sixteenth century were assembled a little later. The seventeenth and eighteenth century material had never been segregated but had to be hunted for all over the building.



Clerks were told to go along the shelves, look at the publication dates, and put into the packing cases any books printed in 1800 or before. The date limit was extended to 1820 for Americana. There was no time to catalog or even to list the titles, but the title-pages were microfilmed for the record. In this way about 18,000 volumes of early date, undoubted rarity, and great historical interest were assembled. Later shipments and acquisitions have brought the number to about 26,000. In Cleveland, Dr. Winfred G. Leutner, then President of Western Reserve University, found space for them on the upper floor of the Allen Memorial Library, which has been called the most beautiful building in the world to house a medical library.

Colonel Harold W. Jones, then Director of the Army Medical Library, spoke of this transfer of the collection to Cleveland as "the result of my complete and undeviating opposition to burying this collection in the ground for the duration, which was at one time suggested." This remark might well stand as a motto and symbol of all that has been done with the collection since. No one connected with it has been willing to bury it, either literally or figuratively. Instead, every effort has been made to keep the books ready for use. The division maintains a special hand bindery in which skilled workmen have to date repaired or rebound over 5,000 volumes. Of these some 1,300, mostly of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, have been done in full leather. Under contract with outside binderies over 10,000 other volumes, especially of the eighteenth century, have also been repaired or rebound by machinery.

Meanwhile a vigorous effort has been made to secure intellectual control of the material by a program of cataloging. A printed catalog of the fifteenth century books is in the press, and the card catalog for the sixteenth century is nearly complete. A program for the acquisition of additional books is also being pushed, and this is being supplemented by an effort to secure from outside libraries microfilm copies of early medical editions not otherwise available. Finally, an active reference service is maintained for historical scholars in any part of the world. This is carried on largely by correspondence, supplemented by microfilming, photostating, or photoprinting of texts when called for. Such historical use is many times less frequent and urgent than the professional use for which the books were originally designed, but it is real. It is, in fact, the ultimate reason for preserving them at all.

Visitors are welcome to visit the library and observe the operations of the hand bindery any day except Saturday and Sunday between the hours of 9 and 4.

The mural paintings at the Allen Memorial Library were given in memory of Dr. Walter A. Merriam. They were painted by the late Cora Millet Holden.



the Holden Murals in the Allen Memorial Library

A brief commentary by Thelma Frazier Winter

“Good mural painting is a scheme of wall decoration bound together by a harmonious coloring, conforming to the structure and purpose of the building, and enriching it through the character of subject and composition. The setting, space to be occupied, and the architecture of the building must be studied so the finished picture will take its place well. Good mural technique calls for doing things simply so as not to lose the big movement. Too much detail is undesirable: the emphasis must be carefully worked out.

“Miss Holden achieved all of this superbly. Notice the strong vertical lines in the first mural for example (Cheiron, the centaur instructing Asklepios). The trees and figures echo the vertical lines of the wall; the horizontals are well emphasized by the clouds, sky and scroll. You can notice the same strength of line in the other panels.

“The style as well as the subject matter make for a sense of fitness. The classic or neo-classic style is well chosen for the Renaissance architecture of the building. Notice the deliberate emphasis on two dimensions, length and breadth; the relative absence of depth.

“Intensity of light on the subjects gives further emphasis. Notice throughout all the studies how Miss Holden has kept the attention on the central figure by its light color, keeping the unimportant figures in the darker shades.”

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